

2. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that (i) consists of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or 3, or (ii) encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4; or the complement thereof.

A¹ 3. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a second nucleic acid molecule consisting of: (a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or 3; or (b) a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, wherein the stringent conditions comprise hybridization in 6xSSC, 50mM Tris HCl (pH 7.5), 1mM EDTA, 0.02% PVP, 0.02% Ficoll, 0.02% BSA, and 500µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA at 65°C, and washing in 0.1x SSC at 50°C, or the complement thereof.

4. (Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 2 or 3.

5. (Amended) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 2 or 3 operatively associated with a regulatory nucleic acid that controls the expression of the nucleic acid molecule in a host cell.

6. (Amended) A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 4.

A² 8. (Amended) A method for producing a polypeptide comprising introducing into a cell an expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1, 2, or 3 operatively associated with a regulatory nucleic acid that controls the expression of the nucleic acid molecule in a host cell; and culturing the cell such that the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule is produced.

Please add new claim 21.

A³ --21. (New) A host cell genetically engineered to express the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1, 2, or 3 operatively associated with a regulatory nucleic acid controlling the expression of the nucleic acid molecule in the host cell. —

Please cancel claims 7, and 9-20, without prejudice.